

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to add headings.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 3 and 4 is noted with appreciation. Claim 1 has been amended to better set forth the invention being claimed. Claims 2-10 have been amended to improve their language in what is believed to be a non-narrowing fashion. Claims 11-13 are new. New claim 11 finds support in, e.g., Figures 1 and 6 and pages 7 and 8 of the specification. New claims 12 and 13 generally correspond to the subject matter of allowable claims 3 and 4.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Rejection Under 335 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 have been rejected under 25 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by MELANDER (U.S. Patent 6,431,785). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to an apparatus for connecting an implement to a prime mover that is illustrated, by way of example, in Figure 1 of the application, which is reproduced below.

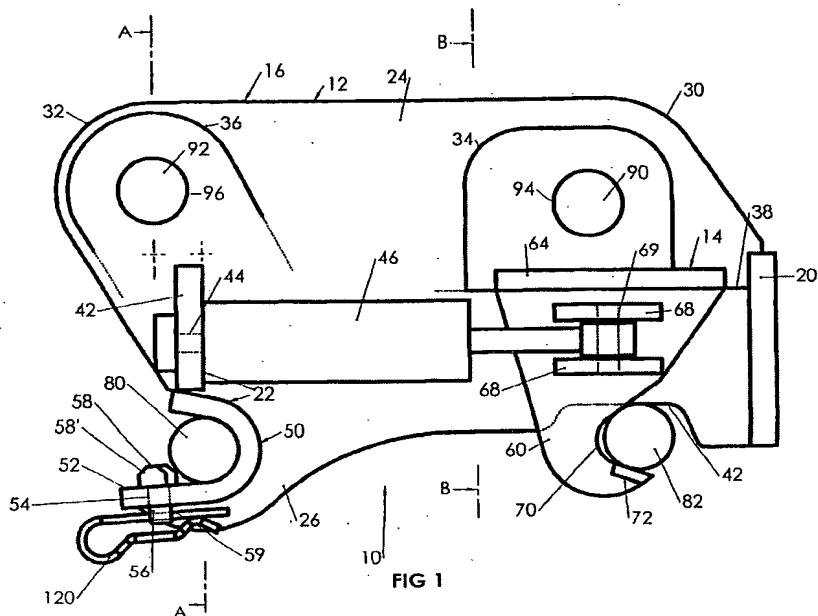


FIG 1

As is set forth in claim 1 of the present invention, the apparatus includes a connector that is mountable on the prime mover and has at least one recess for receiving a connecting pin mounted on the implement to enable the connector to engage the implement. A retaining means is provided which, in use, holds the implement on the connector. A means is also provided for which, in use, mounting on the connector a retaining element positioned so that a head of the retaining element serves to retain the connecting pin in the recess.

MELANDER pertains to a direct pin quick coupler. The Official Action refers to Figures 1, 3 and 5 of MELANDER. Figure 5 of MELANDER is reproduced below.

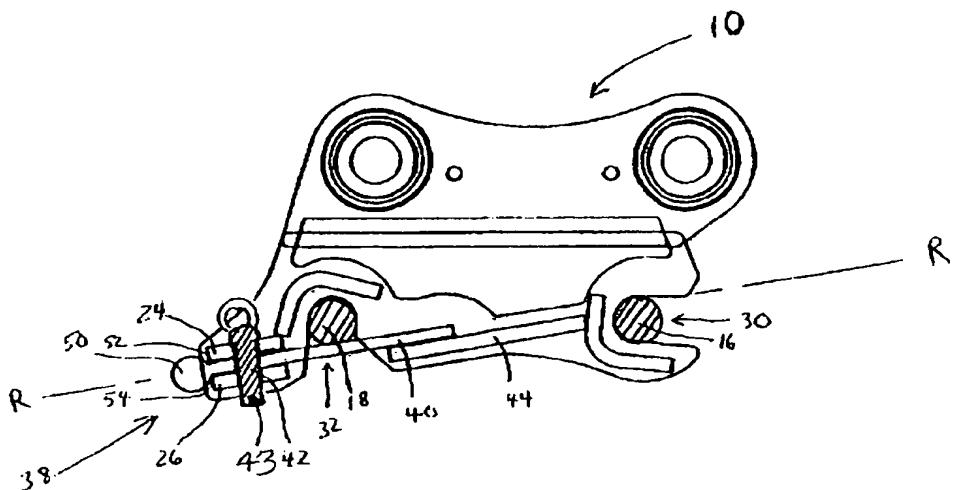


FIG 5

Figure 5 of MELANDER shows a downwardly pointing recess 32 into which a connection pin 18 is positioned during use. Figure 5 of MELANDER also shows a lock pin 42 and a lock plate 40, which the Official Action refers to as a "retaining element 42" and a "head 40 of the retaining element."

MELANDER fails to disclose a coupler having more than a single locking connection.

That is, MELANDER shows only a single locking connection between the connector and the implement formed by the combination of lock plate 40 and lock pin 42. This is, at most, equivalent to the sliding jaws 60 in the present application and corresponds only to the retaining means of amended claim 1.

As a result, the means for "mounting on the connector a retaining element" of amended claim 1 is a completely separate item which has no equivalent in MELANDER. This latter element is

in fact a safety device to maintain connection between the connector and the implement even if the hydraulic system fails (or there is some other malfunction) and the jaw 60 opens. MELANDER thus fails to show the ability to provide two connections between the connector and the implement.

MELANDER accordingly fails to teach each and every element of claim 1 of the present invention. Claim 1 of the present invention is thus not anticipated by MELANDER. Claims depending upon claim 1 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prior art cited but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The rejection is believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Robert E. Goozner, Reg. No. 42,593
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REG/lrs